Airside Transit (where available): Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. These passengers cannot airside/transit to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

Transit without visa (TWOV)
ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must: (i) arrive and depart by air; and (ii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

Nationalities of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit the UK unless they hold one of the following:

- a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or
- a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country; or
- a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland or the USA as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country if required)

Holders of non-
If a visa national holds a visa to transit the UK:
- a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or
- an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-767 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form I-551/155B (attatched to a sealed brown envelope); or
- a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
- a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tour visa where the holder is travelling to one of the countries or its territory.
- a valid airside ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland or the USA as part of a reasonable journey TO that country.

For landside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border and enter the UK (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible).

(The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is made by an immigration officer at the UK border)

UK permanent residents
If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

Passengers with the right of abode in the UK
If a visa national has a ‘certificate of entitlement to the right of abode’ label in their valid passport, they do not need a visa.

Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents
If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to transit the UK.

Seaman
A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a valid seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO18 (or convention of 2003); Algeria, Angola; Argentina, Bolivia; Brazil, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (including the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar), Uruguay. The seaman does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is made by an immigration officer at the UK border.

UK VISA REQUIREMENTS
ALL nations of the countries and territories listed below in red (underlined) need visas to enter or transit the UK. ALL nations of the countries and territories listed below in black need non-visa to enter or transit the UK landside.

ALL visa nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
China (People’s Republic of)
Colombia
Comoros
Congo, Dem.
Congo, Rep.
Costa Rica
Côte d’Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus northern
district of (part of)
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Korea (Dem.
People’s Republic)
Korea (Rep.)
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Libyan
Mali
Mauritania
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar (Burma)
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Macedonia
North Korea
Oman (156)
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Suriname
Syria
Tajikistan
Taiwan
Thailand
Togo
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vatican City
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for that country if required

2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa. Service passport holders may transit without a visa. Holders of a public affairs passport may not transit without a visa. Service and public affairs passport holders do not require a visa if travelling with a travelling cheque or having Chinese government minister on an official visit to the UK.

3. Passport not recognised by HM Government should be issued on a Form for Allowing a Visa (FAV).

4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports always require visas.

5. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if the travel document is a valid electronic visa waiver (EVD) document.

6. Holders of travel documents that include a personal ID number on the biometric page are exempt from the visa requirement.

7. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.

8. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.

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